

Cheers for Jackson, who declares, 'We've made it, all of us'

By ZEKE MILLER and
WILL WEISSERT

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tearfully embracing a history-making moment, Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson said Friday her confirmation as the first Black woman to the Supreme Court showed the progress of America, declaring, "We've made it — all of us."

Jackson delivered emotional remarks on the sunny White House South Lawn a day after the Senate approved her nomination, saying, it was a development the entire country could be proud of.

"We have come a long way toward perfecting our union," she said. "In my family, it took just one generation to go from segregation to the Supreme Court of the United States." President Joe Biden, who made his own history by nominating her, stood by her side for Friday's event, celebrating her confirmation as "a moment of real change in American history." On Jackson's other side: Vice President Kamala Harris, the first Black woman to attain her high



President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris applaud Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson as Jackson speaks during an event on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Friday, April 8, 2022, celebrating the confirmation of Jackson as the first Black woman to reach the Supreme Court.

Associated Press

office. Jackson will take the bench later this year, filling the seat of retiring Justice Stephen Breyer on a court that was made up entirely

of white men for almost two centuries, that declared her race unworthy of citizenship and endorsed American segregation.

"It has taken 232 years and 115 prior appointments for a Black woman to be selected to serve on the Supreme Court of the United

States," Jackson said. "But we've made it. We've made it, all of us."

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 7 DAYS A WEEK

SUNDAY:	MONDAY:	TUESDAY:	WEDNESDAY:	THURSDAY:	FRIDAY:	SATURDAY:
TICO KOCK STEEL DRUM 4 - 6pm	ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	JEAN PAUL SAXOPHONIST 6:30 - 8:30pm	CARLOS ORLATE SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	MARRYBELL MADURO SINGER 6:30 - 8:30pm	RICKY THOMAS GUITAR 7 - 9pm	ANGELA FLORES VIOLINIST 6:30 - 8:30pm

MARRYBELL MADURO
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Cheers for Jackson, who declares, 'We've made it, all of us'

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Jackson, at times speaking through tears as she thanked her family and mentors for their support, promised to follow in Breyer's footsteps on the bench. "I have done my level best to stay in my lane and to reach a result that is consistent with my understanding of the law," she said, "And with the obligation to rule independently, without fear or favor."

Jackson's remarks on the White House lawn might be the most, and the last, the public hears from her for some time. She won't formally join the court until early summer, and the justices won't hear cases again until October. In any event, justices tend not to say much about themselves in their early years on the court, though some make sporadic public appearances and several have done speaking tours to pitch memoirs or their books about the law.

Jackson's arrival on the bench won't upend the current 6-3 conservative balance. But in addition to the racial history, it will for the first time put four women on the court at one time.

Biden nominated Jackson on the second anniversary of his pledge ahead of the South Carolina presidential primary to select a Black woman for the court. The move helped resurrect his flailing campaign and preserved his pathway to the White House, and Biden said the promise of putting someone like Jackson on the court helped motivate his bid for the Oval Office.

"I could see it as a day of hope, a day of promise, a day of progress, a day when once again the moral arc of the universe — as Barack (Obama) used to quote all the time — bends a little more toward justice," Biden told the boisterous crowd on the South Lawn. "I believe so strongly that we needed a court that looks like America."

Racial questions aside, a number of Republican senators aggressively ques-



Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson's husband Dr. Patrick Jackson, right, and daughters Leila Jackson, second from right, and Talia Jackson, second from left, arrive on the South Lawn of the White House where President Joe Biden, accompanied by Vice President Kamala Harris and Judge Jackson, will speak and celebrate the confirmation of Judge Jackson as the first Black woman to reach the Supreme Court, Friday, April 8, 2022 in Washington.

Associated Press

tioned Jackson during confirmation hearings, accusing her of liberal activism as an appeals court judge and being soft on crime in some of her sentencing.

Biden praised Jackson's "incredible character and integrity" during the confirmation process, saying she put up with "verbal abuse, the anger, constant interruptions, the most vile baseless assertions and accusations." He praised the three Republican senators who joined Democrats to back her for the court: Maine Sen. Susan Collins, Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski and Utah Sen. Mitt Romney.

Jackson will be the high court's first former public defender — with the elite legal background of other justices as well. She has degrees from Harvard and Harvard Law School and held top clerkships, including for Breyer himself.

The crowd on the White House lawn included Jackson's family, members of Biden's Cabinet, some of the Democratic senators who backed her nomina-

tion, as well as Democratic representatives and allies. The White House said all current and former justices of the Supreme Court were invited, but none attended. The event came amid a COVID-19 outbreak among Washington's political class that has sidelined members of Biden's administration and lawmakers, including Collins and Georgia Sen. Raphael Warnock, who tested positive for the virus just hours after voting for Brown's confirmation. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who was on the invite list, tested positive for the virus on Thursday.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki on Thursday addressed concerns that the White House event could be a "super-spreader" for the virus, like President Donald Trump's Rose Garden ceremony announcing the nomination of now-Justice Amy Coney Barrett. Psaki emphasized that the risks from the virus are now much lower because of vaccinations and treatments.

"At that point in time, vaccines were unavailable, people were not vaccinated, it certainly puts us in a different space," Psaki said. While not all attendees were tested for the virus, Psaki said those close to Biden would be. Harris delivered remarks, though she was identified on Wednesday as a close contact of a staffer who tested positive. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines require close contacts to wear masks while around other people. Harris did not wear one during the South Lawn event, and she hugged Jackson at the conclusion.

"She had an emotional moment, which is understandable," said Psaki.

On Thursday, Jackson had joined Biden at the White House to watch the Senate vote unfold on TV, the two of them clasping hands in the Roosevelt Room as her confirmation became reality.

Throughout his 50 years in Washington, Biden has played an instrumental

part in shaping the court, both inside and out of the Senate. But this was his first opportunity to make a selection of his own.

Biden may not get another chance. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, in an interview Thursday with Axios, refused to commit to hold confirmation hearings for a future Biden nominee to the high court if the GOP retakes control of the Senate in 2023.

While Jackson awaits Breyer's official retirement, a White House official said, she will remain on the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit but continue to recuse herself from cases. □



Whitmer kidnap plot: 2 men acquitted, hung jury for 2 more

By JOHN FLESHER and
ED WHITE

Associated Press

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP)

— A jury on Friday acquitted two men of all charges in a plot to kidnap Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer but couldn't reach verdicts against the two alleged leaders, a stunning defeat for the government after a weeklong trial that centered on a remarkable FBI sting operation just before the 2020 election.

The results were announced a few hours after the jury said it was struggling to find unanimity on all 10 charges. The judge on the fifth day of deliberations told the panel to keep working, but jurors emerged again after lunch to say they still were deadlocked on some counts. Daniel Harris, 24, and Brandon Caserta, 33, were found not guilty of conspiracy. In addition, Harris was acquitted of charges related to explosives and a gun.

The jury could not reach verdicts for Adam Fox, 38, and Barry Croft Jr., 46, which means the government can put them on trial again. "Obviously we're disappointed with the outcome. ... We have two defendants that are awaiting trial and we'll get back to work on that," U.S. Attorney Andrew Birge said.

Harris and Caserta embraced their lawyers when U.S. District Judge Robert Jonker said they were free after 18 months in jail awaiting trial. Family members



This combo shows booking photos of, from left, Barry Croft, Daniel Harris, Adam Fox and Brandon Caserta.

moments earlier gasped and cried with joy when the verdicts were read.

Their arrests in Michigan in 2020 came amid upheaval in the U.S. during a year that started with pandemic lockdowns then shifted to armed Capitol protests over COVID-19 restrictions ordered by Whitmer and other governors. By late May, anger over racial injustice and the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police erupted into demonstrations in cities nationwide.

In a Grand Rapids courtroom, during 13 days of testimony, prosecutors offered evidence from undercover agents, a crucial informant and two men who pleaded guilty to the plot. Jurors also read and heard secretly recorded conversations, violent social media posts and chat messages.

Ty Garbin, who pleaded guilty and is serving a six-year prison sentence, said the plan was to get Whitmer and cause enough chaos to trigger a civil war before the election, keeping Joe Biden from winning

the presidency.

Garbin and Kaleb Franks, who also pleaded guilty and testified for the government, were among the six who were arrested in October 2020 amid talk of raising \$4,000 for an explosive to blow up a bridge and stymie any police response to a kidnapping, according to trial testimony.

Prosecutors said the group was steeped in anti-government extremism and furious over Whitmer's pandemic restrictions. There was evidence of a crudely built "shoot house" to practice going in and out of her vacation home, and a night ride by Croft, Fox and covert operatives to check the property.

But defense lawyers portrayed the men as credulous weekend warriors prone to big, wild talk and often stoned on marijuana. They said agents and informants tricked and cajoled the men into targeting the governor.

During closing arguments a week ago, Fox's attorney, Christopher Gibbons, said the plan was "utter non-

sense," and he pleaded with jurors to be the "firewall" against the government.

Harris was the only defendant to testify in his own defense, repeatedly telling jurors "absolutely not" when asked if he had targeted the governor.

"I think what the FBI did is unconscionable," Caserta's attorney, Michael Hills, said outside court. "And I think the jury just sent them a message loud and clear that these tactics — we're not going to condone what they've done here."

Gibbons said the acquittals of Harris and Caserta demonstrated some serious shortcomings in the government's case.

"We'll be ready for another trial. ... We'll eventually get what we wanted out of this, which is the truth and the justice I think Adam is entitled to," Gibbons said.

Michigan Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist said the "outcome is disappointing." Whitmer's office released a statement from her chief of staff, who said Americans are "living through the normalization

of political violence."

"The plot to kidnap and kill a governor may seem like an anomaly. But we must be honest about what it really is: The result of violent, divisive rhetoric that is all too common across our country," JoAnne Huls said. "There must be accountability and consequences for those who commit heinous crimes. Without accountability, extremists will be emboldened."

Deliberations resumed earlier Friday with a court employee handing jurors a large plastic bag containing pennies, known as evidence exhibit 291. The pennies were requested before jurors went home Thursday. Pennies taped to a commercial-grade firework were intended to act like shrapnel against Whitmer's security team, according to the government.

The trial covered 20 days since March 8, including jury selection, evidence, final arguments and jury deliberations. Croft is from Bear, Delaware, while the others are from Michigan. Whitmer, a Democrat, rarely talks publicly about the plot, though she referred to "surprises" during her term that seemed like "something out of fiction" when she filed for reelection on March 17.

She has blamed former President Donald Trump for fomenting anger over coronavirus restrictions and refusing to condemn right-wing extremists like those charged in the case. □

FAA seeks biggest fines yet against 2 unruly passengers

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Aviation Administration said Friday that it is seeking the largest fines yet for passengers who disrupt flights after two incidents that occurred on airliners last summer.

The FAA said it proposed a civil penalty of \$81,950 against a passenger who struck a flight attendant on the head, tried to open a cabin door and headbutted, spit at and tried to kick crew members and pas-

sengers even after she was placed in flexible handcuffs. The incident happened on an American Airlines flight last July. The FAA said the passenger was arrested when the plane landed in Charlotte, North Carolina.

The FAA is seeking a \$77,272 fine against a woman who tried to open a cabin door during a flight and bit another passenger repeatedly before she was restrained by the crew on a Delta Air

Lines flight from Las Vegas to Atlanta last July.

Neither person was identified. They have 30 days to respond to the accusations. The FAA said the fines are part of roughly \$2 million in proposed penalties it has announced since Jan. 1. Airlines have reported a high number of incidents since early 2021 — more than 1,000 this year alone — with most of them involving passengers who refuse to wear face masks. □



Travelers move through Salt Lake City International Airport on Aug. 17, 2021, in Salt Lake City.

Associated Press

Muscogee return South nearly 200 years after forced removal

By JAY REEVES

Associated Press

OXFORD, Ala. (AP) — Native Americans whose ancestors were forced out of the Southeast almost 200 years ago during a purge that cleared the way for white settlers returned Friday for a two-day festival with a name that sums up its purpose: "We have come back."

A busload of Muscogee (Creek) Nation citizens and others in vans and cars traveled from their homes in Oklahoma and elsewhere for a celebration in the east Alabama city of Oxford, located on what once was part of Arbeka, a Muscogee community dating back 12,000 years. The people who lived there were forced to move west in 1836 during the "Trail of Tears," a brutal journey of about 700 miles (1,125 kilometers) during which many died.

Land that once was a village inhabited by an estimated 3,000 people is now the site of a city park with sports fields and a walking trail, said RaeLynn Butler, who manages the nation's historical and preservation department. Tribal citizens gathered there at the start of a two-day event to tell Muscogee stories, sing hymns, explain tribal history and give area residents a



Butch McIntosh, left, leads the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Honor Guard during the opening of a two-day festival in Oxford, Ala., on Friday, April 8, 2022.

Associated Press

chance to meet their leaders.

"We're trying to reestablish our presence in our homeland," Butler said.

The Muscogee name for the event is "Reyicepes," or "We have come back." With the United States currently considering how to best interpret a history that includes the enslavement of Black people and the mistreatment of other minorities, women and Native Americans, the tribe is hop-

ing to tell its own story, Principal Chief David Hill said.

"If you read the history books now it doesn't really tell you why and how we were removed with the Trail of Tears," he said. "We didn't want to leave. We were forced to leave."

Once among the largest groups in the Southeast, the Muscogee territory included parts of the present-day states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia and South Carolina. The tribe's last

major fighting force was defeated by U.S. troops at the Battle of Horseshoe Bend about 55 miles (88 kilometers) south of Oxford in 1814, leading to its eventual expulsion from the region.

About 23,000 Muscogee were forced out of the Southeast in all, Butler said, and as many as 4,000 died on a journey that included long stretches of walking and rides on barges and riverboats. The deaths con-

tinued once people arrived in Oklahoma because so many were seriously ill after the trip. The weekend festival is different, she said, because tribal leaders developed the idea on their own and the city welcomed the plan. A partnership between the two got started years ago when municipal officials began developing the park on the old village site, discovered artifacts and notified Muscogee leaders, she said.

While a group from the Muscogee Nation visited the park in 2016 after it opened, most citizens haven't.

"This is the first time many people coming have been here," Butler said. "We know these places but we've never seen them with our own eyes."

The nation wants to do more to connect with the local community and Muscogee still living in the South, the principal chief said. The nation already is working on educational programs with area schools, Hill said, and there have been discussions about using city-owned land at the park, which includes a reconstructed mound and interpretative signs, for a cultural center.

"We look at it as, 'If they can't come to us, we'll go to them,'" he said. □



A man walks past boxes that were moved out of the Eisenhower Executive Office building, just outside the West Wing, inside the White House complex, Thursday, Jan. 14, 2021, in Washington.

Associated Press

By MATTHEW LEE

AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department says it is unable to compile a com-

plete and accurate accounting of gifts presented to former President Donald Trump and other U.S. officials by foreign govern-

State Department: WH gift records for Trump, Pence missing

ments during Trump's final year in office, citing missing data from the White House. In a report to be published in the Federal Register next week, the department says the Executive Office of the President did not submit information about gifts received by Trump and his family from foreign leaders in 2020. It also says the General Services Administration didn't submit information about gifts given to former Vice President Mike Pence and White House staffers that year.

The State Department said it sought the missing information from National Ar-

chives and Records Administration and the General Services Administration, but was told that "potentially relevant records" are not available because of access restrictions related to retired records.

The State Department's Office of Protocol reported the situation in footnotes to a partial list of gifts received by U.S. officials in 2020.

The office publishes such lists annually in part to guard against potential conflicts of interest. A preview of the 2020 report was posted on the Federal Register website on Friday ahead of its formal publi-

cation on Monday.

The report notes that the lack of gift information could be related to internal oversights as the protocol office neglected to "submit the request for data to all reporting agencies prior to January 20, 2021," when the Trump administration ended and the Biden administration began.

However, it also noted that there had been a "lack of adequate recordkeeping pertaining to diplomatic gifts" between Jan. 20, 2017, when Trump took office, and his departure from the White House four years later. □

Israeli forces kill Palestinian attacker; third victim dies

By JOSEPH KRAUSS

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — A third Israeli has died following the attack by a Palestinian man who opened fire into a crowded bar in central Tel Aviv. Israeli security forces said they hunted down and killed the attacker early Friday.

The shooting on Thursday evening in a downtown area packed with people in bars and restaurants caused scenes of mass panic in the heart of the bustling city. Two people were instantly killed and over 10 people were wounded.

A Tel Aviv hospital on Friday afternoon announced that Barak Lufan, 35, who was wounded in the shooting had succumbed to his injuries.

It was the fourth deadly attack in Israel by Palestinians in three weeks, and came at a time of heightened tensions around the start of Ramadan. Tens of thousands of Palestinians attended the first Friday prayers of the Muslim holy month in Jerusalem amid a heavy Israeli security presence, with no immediate reports of unrest.

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett met with top security officials and announced that a major crossing in the northern West Bank near the attacker's hometown would be closed indefinitely. "Every murderer will know that we'll get to him, and anyone who helps terrorists should know that the price he will pay will be unbearable," Bennett said in a statement.

Israel proceeded with plans to allow Palestinian women, children and older men from the occupied West Bank to enter Jerusalem for prayers. Protests and clashes in the holy city during Ramadan last year eventually ignited an 11-day Gaza war.

Thursday's shooting took place in a crowded bar on Dizengoff Street, a central thoroughfare that has seen other attacks over the years. Thursday night is the beginning of the Israeli weekend, and the area



Israeli security forces search for assailants near the scene of a shooting attack in Tel Aviv, Israel, Thursday, April 7, 2022.

Associated Press

was busy.

In videos spread on social media, dozens of terrified people were seen running through the streets as police searched for the attacker and ordered people to stay indoors. The two killed on the spot were identified as Tomer Morad and Eytan Magini, childhood friends in their late 20s from Kfar Saba, a town just north of Tel Aviv.

Hundreds of Israeli police officers, canine units, and army special forces, had conducted a massive manhunt throughout the night across Tel Aviv, searching building by building through densely populated residential neighborhoods. Early Friday, authorities said they found the attacker hiding near a mosque in Jaffa, an Arab neighborhood in southern Tel Aviv, and killed him in a shoot-out.

The Shin Bet internal security service identified the attacker as Raad Hazem, a 28-year-old Palestinian from Jenin, in the occupied West Bank. It said he did not belong to an organized militant group and had no prior record. It said he had entered Israel illegally without a permit.

The Jenin refugee camp was the scene of one of the deadliest battles of the second Palestinian intifada, or uprising, 20 years ago.

In April 2002, Israeli forces fought Palestinian militants in the camp for nearly three weeks. Twenty-three Israeli soldiers and at least 52 Palestinians, including civilians, were killed, according to the United Nations.

The Israeli military frequently conducts arrest raids in Jenin, often coming under fire. The Palestinian Authority, which administers parts of the occupied West Bank and coordinates with Israel on security matters, appears to have little control over the area.

After Thursday's attack, 13 Israelis have been killed in recent weeks, making this one of the worst waves of violence in years.

The militant Hamas group that rules the Gaza Strip praised the attack but did not claim responsibility. President Mahmoud Abbas, who heads the PA, condemned the attack, saying the killing of civilians on either side "can only lead to a further deterioration of the situation."

All of the attackers appear to have acted individually or with minimal support from a small cell. Three of them are believed to have identified with the extremist group Islamic State. But militant groups do not appear to have trained them or organized the attacks. Seeking to avoid a repeat of last year's war, Israeli,

Jordanian and Palestinian leaders have held a flurry of meetings in recent weeks to discuss ways to maintain calm.

Israel has taken a number of steps aimed at calming tensions, including issuing thousands of additional work permits for Palestinians from the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip. But the attacks have set off growing calls in Israel for a tougher crack-down.

Israel allowed Palestinian women, children and men over 40 from the occupied West Bank to pray at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in east Jerusalem on Friday. The Muslim body that oversees the site said 80,000 people attended the weekly prayers.

Police mobilized thousands of forces in and around the Old City, home to Al-Aqsa and other holy sites sacred to Jews, Christians and Muslims.

The Al-Aqsa Mosque is the third holiest site in Islam and sits on a hilltop that is the most sacred site for Jews, who refer to it as the Temple Mount. The holy site has long been a flashpoint for Israeli-Palestinian violence. Israel has worked to sideline the Palestinian issue in recent years, instead focusing on forging alliances with Arab states against Iran. But the century-old conflict remains as intractable as ever.

Israel captured east Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in the 1967 Middle East war. The Palestinians want all three territories to form their future state. The last substantive peace talks broke down more than a decade ago, and Bennett is opposed to Palestinian statehood, though he supports steps to improve their economy and quality of life.

Israel annexed east Jerusalem in a move not recognized internationally and considers the entire city to be its capital. It is building and expanding Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank, which most of the international community considers illegal. Israel withdrew soldiers and settlers from Gaza in 2005. But along with neighboring Egypt, it imposed a crippling blockade on the territory after the militant Hamas group seized power from rival Palestinian forces two years later. Israel and Hamas have fought four wars since then.

Israel says the conflict stems from the Palestinians' refusal to accept its right to exist as a Jewish state and blames attacks in part on incitement on social media. Palestinians say such attacks are the inevitable result of a nearly 55-year military occupation that shows no sign of ending. □

Experts set to travel to Ukraine to identify the war's dead

By **MIKE CORDER**

Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — An international organization formed to identify the dead and missing from the 1990s Balkan conflicts is preparing to send a team of forensics experts to Ukraine as the death toll mounts more than six weeks into the war caused by Russia's invasion.

Authorities in Kyiv have reached out to the International Commission on Missing Persons to help put names to bodies that might otherwise remain anonymous amid the fog of war. A team made up of a forensic pathologist, forensic archeologist and an expert on collecting DNA samples from bodies and from families to cross-match, is expected to travel to Ukraine early next week, Director-General Kathryn Bombberger told The Associated Press on Friday.

They will help identify the dead, but also document how they died — information that can feed into war crimes investigations in the future. The organization's laboratory in an office block on a busy street in The Hague will build a central database cataloging evidence and the identities of the missing.

"Having this centralized capability is absolutely critical because you have to look at this as an investigation into a gigantic crime scene that is taking place across Ukraine," Bombberger said. The team will have plenty of work to do when it deploys to Bucha, where images of bodies lying in the streets after Russian forces withdrew shocked the world. Bucha Mayor Anatoliy Fedoruk said Thursday on Ukrainian television that at least three sites of mass shootings of civilians during the Russian occupation have been found. Fedoruk said hundreds have been killed and investigators are finding bodies in yards, parks and city squares. Vladyslav Atroshenko, the



Staff handles forensic evidence at the laboratory of the International Commission on Missing Persons in The Hague, Netherlands, Friday, April 8, 2022.

Associated Press

mayor of Chernihiv, said about 700 military personnel and civilians have been killed in the northern city during the war, and that 70 of the bodies remain unidentified, Ukrainian state news agency Ukrinform reported. The commission, known by its acronym ICMP, already has a working relationship with the prosecution office of the International Criminal Court and other crime-fighting agencies like Interpol and Europol to share evidence. ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan already has opened an investigation in Ukraine. "We want to make sure

that we work together with the Ukrainian authorities to properly excavate these crime scene sites to identify the mortal remains so that evidence can be provided in the future for criminal trial purposes, not only potentially to the ICC, but also potentially within domestic courts in Ukraine," Bombberger said. The organization is at the forefront of using new technology in their painstaking work to identify bodies from even the smallest samples. "We have implemented a new extraction technique, which allows us to extract more DNA from smaller or

more damaged fragments of bone sample," said DNA Laboratory manager Kieren Hill. "This is quite a unique method in terms of its application into the missing person's context." On Friday, lab staff in white clothes covered with blue plastic overalls, hair nets and gloves were meticulously working on other cases, grasping small shards of bone in pliers and grinding away their surfaces in search of DNA. The ICMP has an online portal where people in Ukraine can anonymously report locations of bodies, and will help family members of the missing to provide DNA samples to help identify them. The commission was established to trace the dead from the Balkan wars of the 1990s. Its sterile, high-tech laboratories are a world away from the muddy mass graves where the organization's experts first rose to prominence among the decomposing dead of the 1995 Srebrenica massacre of more than 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys. They helped put names to bodies that in some cases were torn apart and spread across multiple mass graves as Bosnian Serb forces buried and then re-buried the dead in an effort to cover traces of their genocidal attempt to wipe out Srebrenica's Bosniaks. □



A teenager from the 'Right to Live Platform', bottom, holds a banner which reads: "Abortion Zero", as she takes part during a demonstration against pregnancy termination, in Pamplona northern Spain, March 23, 2014.

Associated Press

Spain bans harassment of women entering abortion clinics

MADRID (AP) — Spain is awaiting the publication in coming days of a new law banning the intimidation or harassment of women entering abortion clinics. The law comes into force when it is published in the Government Gazette, possibly next week, after the Spanish Senate on Wednesday endorsed a law passed earlier by parliament. The Senate gave its blessing by 154 to 105 votes for changes to the penal code in Spain, where abortions are available for

free in the public health service through the 14th week of pregnancy. The legal changes mean that anyone harassing a woman going into an abortion clinic will be committing a crime that can be punished with up to one year in prison. Spain's government, led by the center-left Socialist government, proposed the law last year and lawmakers approved it in September. In the Senate, as in parliament, the changes were

opposed by right-of-center political groupings. They argued that the alterations flew in the face of the constitutional right to free speech and the right to assemble. Anti-abortion groups said their gatherings outside abortion clinics were organized to pray and offer help to the women. The national Association of Accredited Clinics for Pregnancy Termination says that more than 100 cases of harassment are reported outside clinics each year. □

Puerto Rico struggles to emerge from outage as anger builds

By DÁNICA COTO

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— Shuttered businesses. Sleepless nights. Canceled classes. Hundreds of thousands of people across Puerto Rico remained without power on Friday, nearly two days after a fire at a main power plant sparked an island-wide outage.

Crews have restored power to some 650,000 customers out of nearly 1.5 million, but people in several neighborhoods have complained that the electricity went out once again as the island struggles to emerge from the blackout that also left more than 160,000 clients without water.

The outage forced the government to cancel classes and shutter agencies for the second day in a row on this U.S. territory of 3.2 million people as frustration and anger bubbled over.

"This is unbearable," said Maribel Hernández, 49, as she wiped her forehead with a small blue washcloth that she hung over her left shoulder.

Hernández, who is recovering from cancer, has been sleeping on the concrete floor in her home's narrow outdoor patio with only a sheet because her mattress doesn't fit there. She worries about being mugged because she lives in a work-



Traffic lights are out of service on a street in San Juan, Puerto Rico, early Thursday, April 7, 2022.

Associated Press

ing-class neighborhood with a high crime rate, but the heat inside her house is overwhelming.

"Those who have generators are doing well, but what about people like us?" she said, adding that she's been forced to throw out all her food.

Officials with Luma, which took over transmission and distribution from Puerto Rico's Electric Power company last year, have said they don't know exactly when power would be fully restored but note crews have been working nonstop.

"The system is extremely

fragile," said Shay Bahramirad, an engineering vice president with Luma.

The company has said that a circuit-breaker failure could have caused the blackout after a fire erupted late Wednesday at the Costa Sur power plant in southern Puerto Rico, but that it will be weeks before they'll know the exact cause of the interruption. Meanwhile, the lack of power prompted at least one city to distribute food to the elderly and ice to those with health conditions including diabetes as many wonder when exact-

ly they'll have lights again.

"I haven't slept," said Fernando García, a 51-year-old construction worker who is more worried about not being able to find work in the past two days given the outage. "I don't have a budget right now."

García stood outside a small outdoor cafeteria selling eggs and greasy turnovers known as empanadillas, grateful that the owner allowed him to charge his phone for the day as he continued to look for work. Luma CEO Wayne Stensby has called the outage "very unusual" and said it

demonstrated the fragility of Puerto Rico's electrical grid, which Hurricane Maria razed in 2017 as a powerful Category 4 storm. Emergency repairs were made at the time, but reconstruction efforts have yet to start on the crumbling electrical grid that has caused weekly outages in dozens of communities.

Late Thursday, the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency said it had approved nearly \$9.5 billion to Puerto Rico's power company in September 2020 to rebuild the grid, but that it has not yet received any transmission and distribution projects for evaluation and approval of construction funds.

In addition, the Costa Sur generation plant, one of four main ones on the island, was damaged during a series of strong earthquakes that struck southern Puerto Rico in recent years. Kevin Acevedo, a vice president for Luma, said Friday that the company hopes to have restored power to 1 million customers by late Friday night.

Those who have power back said they are relieved but worry about the impact the outage had on shrinking budgets already hard hit by the island's more than decade-long economic crisis. □

South China Sea issues handled 'properly,' Xi tells Duterte

✚✚✚✚✚✚ ✚✚✚✚✚✚ □

Seeking to put a positive spin on a relationship that never quite produced the hoped-for benefits, Chinese leader Xi Jinping told outgoing Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Friday that the two nations have "properly" handled the sensitive issue of the disputed South China Sea.

Xi made his remarks in a phone conversation with Duterte, who nurtured closer ties with Beijing after taking office in 2016.

Despite cozier relations, however, sporadic territorial spats have persisted and

Beijing has had limited success separating the Philippines from its treaty ally, the United States.

Xi made no mention of disputes, saying the sides "have adhered to the important consensus reached, adhered to good-neighborly and friendly cooperation, insisted on properly handling differences, and insisted on working together for common development."

"The proper handling of the South China Sea issue by both sides has provided an important foundation for China-Philippines friendly

cooperation, benefited the two peoples, and effectively safeguarded regional peace and stability,"

Xi was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua News Agency.

"China's policy toward the Philippines maintains continuity and stability, and (China) is willing to work with the Philippines to promote the continuous and sound development of China-Philippines relations and continuously advance to a new level," Xi said.

Xi also took a swipe at Manila's security pact with Washington, saying that



In this photo provided by the Philippine Coast Guard, a Chinese Coast Guard ship sails near a Philippine Coast Guard vessel during its patrol at Bajo de Masinloc, 124 nautical miles west of Zambales province, northwestern Philippines on March 2, 2022.

Associated Press

recent developments showed that "regional security cannot be achieved by strengthening military alliances."

"China is willing to work with the Philippines and region-

al countries to adhere to the concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security (and) firmly hold regional security leadership in their own hands," Xi said. □

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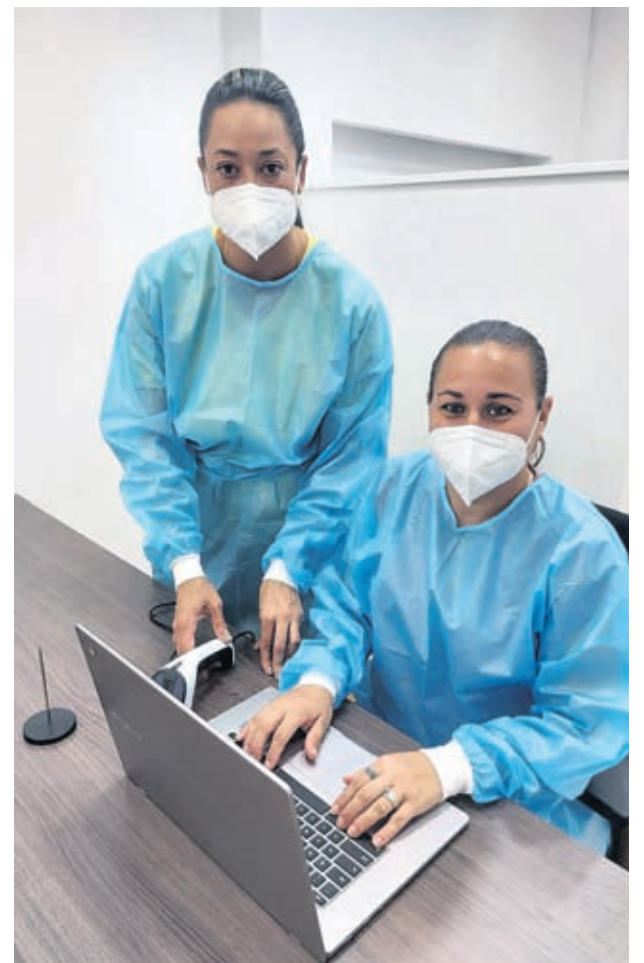


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A PCR test costs \$75 and results are ready the next day, while Antigen test costs \$35 with same day results. If you are staying at an off-high-rise area property, you can benefit from the free parking our customers receive at the mall lot.).

For more information follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter. 

Honoring of loyal visitors at Marriott Surf Club

EAGLE BEACH - Recently, Aruba Tourism Authority representative Mario Arends had the great pleasure in honoring many loyal Aruba visitors with their distinctive certificates. These certificates are a way to say "Masha Danki" for continuously choosing Aruba as a favorite vacation destination. The titles are as following: 10+ years "Distinguished Visitor", 20+ years "Goodwill Ambassador" and 36+ years "Emerald Ambassador".

The honorees are: Michael and Juanita Scott from Ohio, USA who have been honored as Distinguished Visitors at their home away from home.

The symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism, as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba between the 10-20-35 or more consecutive year mark.

The couple loves coming to the island for the perfect weather, the always friendly residents of Aruba and the variety of restaurants.

Mr. Mario Arends together with the representatives of Marriott Surf Club presented the certificates to the honorees and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination for so many years and as their home-away-from-home. □



Aruba to Me

ORANJESTAD -We would like to portrait you! By inviting you to send us your favorite vacation picture while enjoying our Happy Island. Complete the sentence: Aruba to me is Send your picture with that text (including your name and where you are from) to: news@arubatoday.com and we will publish your vacation memory. Isn't that a special way to keep your best moments alive? Please do note: By submitting photos, text or any other materials, you give permission to The Aruba Today Newspaper, Caribbean Speed Printers and any of its affiliated companies to use said materials, as well as names, likeness, etc. for promotional purposes without compensation.

Last but not least: check out our website and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. For today we have a sweet message from one of our lovely visitors Allison Braswell who wrote, "This is our 9th trip to Aruba. Aruba to me has become a second home where friends have become family. The Tamarijn hotel is our place to be, the staff has become our family and we have made so many friends here over the years. The Island is just the happiest place to be."

Our gratitude to Allison and all our visitors who share their stories with us! □

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Game 7	Letter T	\$300
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Aruba is ranked one of the top 10 Sustainable Holiday Destinations

Oranjestad - By traveling we can build connections that will help us get to know and experience other cultures, food and music along with a new perspective gained on how other parts of the world experience and go about their daily lives.

Overall traveling has a strong and long lasting impact in many aspects of our lives meaning that a great and well managed travel will make a really good impact, but a poorly managed travel will consequently have a negative impact. The impact of traveling is not only to us, but it can extend to the destination we are in, it's local community and it's environment too which can then have an impact in the



tourism in general.

DiscoverCars.com has explored a number of ranking factors that have an impact mainly on climate. It includes implications of a return flight to the destination, a total number of hotels that offer Electric Ve-

hicle charging points and the number of vegan restaurants the location offers.

The most popular tourist destinations were found by looking at TripAdvisor's most trending destinations of this year. This information, along with data collected

for a number of ranking factors for each vacation, they have highlighted certain information to help people who want to travel plan their next vacation.

The factors are closest airports, climate impact (based on a round flight from Heathrow London to the destination) measured in kilograms of CO2, hotels with EV charging points, number of vegan restaurants, number of nature spots and its pollution level. Furthermore, they looked at the air quality of the destinations of which they found information of on The Weather Channel. All these points taken into account, each destination could receive a score out of 100.

Aruba ranked within the

top 10 most sustainable holiday destinations out of 20 total destinations. In 1986 it became a separate self-governing constituent country of the Netherlands Antilles. It is located in the mid-south of the Caribbean Sea.

With the closest airport being the Queen Beatrix International Airport, a climate impact of 3709 kilograms of CO2, 1 hotel with electric vehicles charging points, 137 vegan restaurants, 50 nature spots and a low pollution level, Aruba received a 52 out of 100 score.

We are proud to see that our Island is recognized for its beauty and now for its sustainability. □

Source DiscoverCars.com

Continuation

Remembering Aruba's history and involvement in World War II

Written by Evert Bongers

Oranjestad - When war broke out in Europe in September 1939, the Netherlands declared itself neutral and that applied to the entire Kingdom, including 'the West'.

German merchant ships in the Caribbean, chased by English patrol ships, took refuge in the neutral waters of Curaçao and Aruba to avoid internment by the English. The local authorities, who were not waiting for these ships, sent them to 'outer bays' to anchor there and so four German ships were moored in Aruba for the Malmok roadstead. Three of them dared to leave again, but the captain of the 'Antilla' thought it wiser not to



take the wide waters, with all the dangers that entailed. The story of the Antilla would be repeated in the events of May 10, 1940, the day of the German invasion of the Netherlands.

As tensions in Europe escalated in April 1940 with the German invasion of Denmark and Norway and troops concentrated on the borders of the Netherlands and Belgium, the Allies, England and France, became increasingly concerned about securing the refineries on the Dutch coast. Netherlands - Antillean islands with their oil products were of vital impor-

tance to them.

Commanders-in-chief of both countries met in Jamaica a week before the invasion of the Netherlands to secretly agree on the possible 'occupation' of the refineries. The defense of Curaçao would be reinforced by British troops, and Aruba by French troops. It was feared that sabotage would put the refineries out of action. The Dutch government was not informed of the Allied plans, nor was the American government. The United States was also neutral in the developing world conflict for the time being. In the days before May 10, French ships appeared near Aruba, British ships around Curaçao. □



Medicare weighs premium cut after limiting Alzheimer's drug

By **RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR** and **MATTHEW PERRONE**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Medicare said Thursday it's considering a cut in enrollee premiums, after officials stuck with an earlier decision to sharply limit coverage for a pricey new Alzheimer's drug projected to drive up program costs. The agency "is looking at that, and is still going through the process," spokeswoman Beth Lynk said of a potential reduction in premiums, as Medicare announced its final coverage decision for Aduhelm, a drug whose benefits have been widely questioned in the medical community.

Officials said Medicare will keep coverage restrictions imposed earlier on the \$28,000-a-year medication, paying for Aduhelm only when it's used in clinical trials approved by the Food and Drug Administration or the National Institutes of Health.

The projected cost of Aduhelm was a major driver behind a \$22 increase in Medicare's Part B premium this year, boosting it to \$170.10 a month. That price hike is already being paid by more than 56 million



The Biogen Inc., headquarters, Wednesday, March 11, 2020, in Cambridge, Mass.

Associated Press

Medicare recipients signed up for the program's outpatient coverage benefit. Lawmakers have called for a rollback and Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra already directed Medicare to reassess.

Thursday's coverage decision illustrates the impact that a single medication can have on the budgets of individuals and taxpayers. It comes as legislation to authorize Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices remains stuck in the Senate, part of President Joe Biden's stalled social and climate agenda.

That's left Democrats with nothing to show on their midterm election-year

promises to cut prescription drug costs, unless they can overcome internal disagreements. Most Medicare recipients have their premiums deducted from their monthly Social Security checks. And despite a big cost-of-living increase, they're feeling the bite of inflation.

Medicare's determination on Aduhelm included an important caveat. Officials said that if it or any other similar drug in its class were to receive what's called "traditional" FDA approval, then Medicare would open up broader coverage for patients. Such approval is granted when a medication shows a clear clinical benefit.

That was not the case with Aduhelm. It received what's known as "accelerated" approval last year because of its potential promise. But manufacturer Biogen is required to conduct a follow-up study to definitively answer whether Aduhelm truly slows the progression of Alzheimer's. If that study is successful, FDA would grant full approval.

That would also open up Medicare coverage.

Dr. Lee Fleisher, chief medical officer of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, said "there will be quick access for Medicare beneficiaries" for Alzheimer's drugs that receive the traditional FDA approval, after demonstrating a clear benefit.

Aduhelm hit the market as the first new Alzheimer's medication in nearly two decades. Initially priced at \$56,000 a year, it was expected to quickly become a blockbuster drug, generating billions for Cambridge, Mass.-based Biogen.

But although the company slashed the price in half — to \$28,000 a year — Aduhelm's rollout has been disastrous.

Pushback from politicians, physicians and insurers

left the company with just \$3 million in sales from Aduhelm last year. Doctors have been hesitant to prescribe it, given weak evidence that the drug slows the progression of Alzheimer's. Insurers have blocked or restricted coverage over the drug's high price tag and uncertain benefit.

The CMS decision means that for Medicare to pay, patients taking Aduhelm will have to be part of clinical trials to assess the drug's safety and effectiveness in slowing the progression of early-stage dementia.

Tamara Syrek Jensen, head of CMS's coverage and analysis unit, said "it's status quo" as far as limitations the agency initially imposed on Aduhelm in January.

The limits stayed on despite a massive lobbying push by the Alzheimer's Association to change Medicare's position, including outreach to members of Congress, online advertising and social media campaigns directed at the agency.

The association, the largest group of its kind, has received contributions from drugmakers, including Biogen.

The group's CEO said he was "very disappointed" after reviewing Medicare's decision. □

McDonald's investors will consider civil rights audit

By **DEE-ANN DURBIN**
AP Business Writer

McDonald's investors will consider a proposal for a civil rights audit of the company after the federal government denied McDonald's request to remove the proposal from the agenda at its annual meeting.

SOC Investment Group, a shareholder advocacy group that supports union pension funds, submitted the proposal for a vote at McDonald's annual meeting. The proposal, which is one of 10 listed on McDonald's proxy statement, asks McDonald's board to oversee a third-party audit that would analyze the company's civil rights record and

provide recommendations for improvement.

SOC backed a similar proposal at Apple's annual meeting in March. Apple shareholders voted in favor of a civil rights audit over the Cupertino, California-based company's objections. McDonald's annual meeting hasn't yet been scheduled but is generally held in May.

In its proposal, SOC noted more than 50 complaints and lawsuits alleging sexual harassment at the company's restaurants over the last six years. It also said multiple lawsuits against the company have been filed by Black franchisees and executives accusing

the company of discrimination.

SOC also faulted the company for reporting diversity data only for its company-owned U.S. stores, even though 95% of its stores are owned and operated by franchisees.

"We urge McDonald's to assess its behavior through a civil rights lens to obtain a complete picture of how it contributes to social and economic inequality," SOC wrote in the proxy statement.

In a letter sent in January to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, McDonald's asked to remove the proposal from its proxy statement because public-



In this April 20, 2006 file photo, a McDonald's restaurant logo and golden arch is lit in Chicago.

Associated Press

ly reporting on its civil rights record could harm its legal defense in multiple lawsuits. The Chicago-based company also noted its ongoing efforts to promote diversity, including a \$250 million commitment to increase the number of

franchisees from historically underrepresented groups and new requirements for anti-harassment training at its stores worldwide.

The company said it has also set a goal of gender parity in its leadership positions by the end of 2030. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 37 Church doctrine
 - 1 Good pair
 - 5 Surgery section
 - 40 Furtive fellow
 - 10 "The Fifer" artist
 - 41 Peevish
 - 12 Gauge setting
 - 42 Gaelic language

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Yesterday's answer

- DOWN**
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 - 26 African
 - 1 Accumulate
 - 9 Bias
 - 27 Not so
 - 2 Moulin Rouge
 - 11 Israeli city
 - small
 - 17 Craps
 - 28 Andean
 - 16 Went first
 - naturals
 - animals
 - 20 Eminem
 - 29 Custom
 - 31 Tent
 - 4 Salt, to
 - collaborator
 - anchor
 - 5 Tater
 - 21 Doles
 - 33 Hot
 - 6 Manx, e.g.
 - 23 Yellow
 - 36 Acquire
 - 7 Zoo
 - fellows
 - 38 Binary
 - 25 Like tears
 - digit

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4-9

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-9 **CRYPTOQUOTE**

W T J Q B W A J B C A B J Q L R

J L Y D Q J Y R L A P J Q W A D W J ' R

J Q L J P H Y E L A J S B R R A B E R

L A N G H C B K L J R — Z B J B C

R L D L S

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: IF WE CAN CLEAN UP OUR WORLD, I'LL BET YOU WE CAN ACHIEVE WARP DRIVE — WILLIAM SHATNER

Will Smith gets 10-year Oscars ban over Chris Rock slap



Chris Rock appears at the the FX portion of the Television Critics Association Winter press tour in Pasadena, Calif., on Jan. 9, 2020, left, and Will Smith appears at the 94th Academy Awards nominees luncheon in Los Angeles on March 7, 2022.

Associated Press

By ANDREW DALTON
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The motion picture academy on Friday banned Will Smith from attending the Oscars or any other academy event for 10 years following his slap of Chris Rock at the Academy Awards.

The move comes after a meeting of the academy's Board of Governors to discuss a response to Smith's actions. It is unclear whether the ban would apply to future nominations.

"The 94th Oscars were meant to be a celebration of the many individuals in our community who did incredible work this past year; however, those moments were overshadowed by the unacceptable and harmful behavior we saw Mr. Smith exhibit on stage," the academy said in a statement.

"I accept and respect the Academy's decision," Smith said in response. He preemptively resigned from the academy last week during the run-up to the meeting, calling his actions "shocking, painful, and inexcusable."

The academy also apologized for its handling of the situation and allowing Smith to stay and accept his best actor award for "King Richard."

"During our telecast, we did not adequately address the situation in the room. For this, we are sorry," the academy said. "This was an opportunity for us to set an example for our guests, viewers and our Academy family around the world, and we fell short — unprepared for the unprecedented." In a statement in the days following the Oscars, the academy said Smith was asked to leave the ceremony but refused. But it's not clear how the message was delivered to Smith or what form it took, and several media outlets reported that he was never formally told to leave the Dolby Theatre. The Los Angeles Times reported in a story Thursday that Oscars producer Will Packer told Smith: "Officially, we don't want you to leave. We want you to stay."

The ban means Smith will not be presenting one of the major awards at next

year's Oscars, as is tradition for the best actor winner.

The academy in its Friday statement also expressed "deep gratitude to Mr. Rock for maintaining his composure under extraordinary circumstances."

The academy's statement did not address whether Smith could be nominated for Oscars during his 10-year ban. Nor did it take any action to revoke Smith's Academy Award.

The academy has not revoked Oscars from expelled members Harvey Weinstein or Roman Polanski. With his resignation last week, Smith lost the ability to vote for nominees and winners.

At the March 27 Academy Awards, Rock came out to present the best documentary Oscar and made jokes about several attendees, including Smith's wife, Jada Pinkett Smith.

"Jada, I love you. 'G.I. Jane 2,' can't wait to see it," Rock said.

Pinkett Smith, who has spoken publicly about her hair loss condition, alopecia, had a closely shaved head similar to that of Demi Moore in the 1997 movie.

Smith strode from his front-row seat on to the stage and slapped Rock, stunning the comedian, the theater crowd and viewers at home.

Many thought it was a planned gag set up by the show or the men themselves, but the seriousness of the situation set in after Smith returned to his seat and angrily twice shouted at Rock to "keep my wife's name out your (expletive) mouth."

Rock said he had no interest in pursuing charges when asked by police backstage.

Smith took the stage again less than hour later to accept his Oscar, tearfully apologizing to the academy but notably omitting any mention of Rock. He compared himself to Richard Williams, the man he played in "King Richard," "a fierce defender of his family." □

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Pink Floyd members reunite to record song for Ukraine

LONDON (AP) — Pink Floyd is releasing its first new music in almost three decades to raise money for the people of Ukraine, the band announced Thursday.

"Hey Hey Rise Up" features Pink Floyd members David Gilmour and Nick Mason, with vocals from Ukrainian singer Andriy Khlyvnyuk of the band BoomBox. Roger Waters, who left the band in the 1980s, is not involved. The track features Khlyvnyuk singing a patriotic Ukrainian song from a clip he recorded in front of Kyiv's St. Sophia Cathedral and posted on social media.

Gilmour, who performed with BoomBox in London in 2015, said the video was



David Gilmour performs in the ancient roman amphitheater of the Pompeii archeological site, Italy, Thursday, July 7, 2016.

Associated Press

"a powerful moment that made me want to put it to music."

After Russia's invasion, Khlyvnyuk cut short a tour of the

U.S. to return to Ukraine and join a territorial defense unit.

Gilmour said he spoke to Khlyvnyuk, who was re-

covering in a hospital from a mortar shrapnel injury, while he was writing the song. He said: "I played him a little bit of the song down the phone line and he gave me his blessing. We both hope to do something together in person in the future."

The song is being released Friday and the band says proceeds will go to the Ukraine Humanitarian Relief Fund.

"We want to express our support for Ukraine, and in that way show that most of the world thinks that it is totally wrong for a superpower to invade the independent democratic country that Ukraine has become," Gilmour said. □

Japan's Nissan plans 'game changing' electric car batteries



Nissan Motor Co. Executive Vice President Kunio Nakaguro speaks during Nissan's presentation of the media preview of the Tokyo Motor Show on Oct. 23, 2019, in Tokyo.

Associated Press

By **YURI KAGEYAMA**
AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Nissan is working with NASA on a new type of battery for electric vehicles that promises to charge quicker and be lighter yet safe, the Japanese automaker said Friday.

The all-solid-state battery will replace the lithium-ion battery now in use for a 2028 product launch and a pilot plant launch in 2024, according to Nissan.

The all-solid-state battery is stable enough to be used in pacemakers. When finished, it will be about half the size of the current battery and fully charge in 15 minutes, instead of a few hours.

The collaboration with the U.S. space program, as well

as the University of California San Diego, involves the testing of various materials,

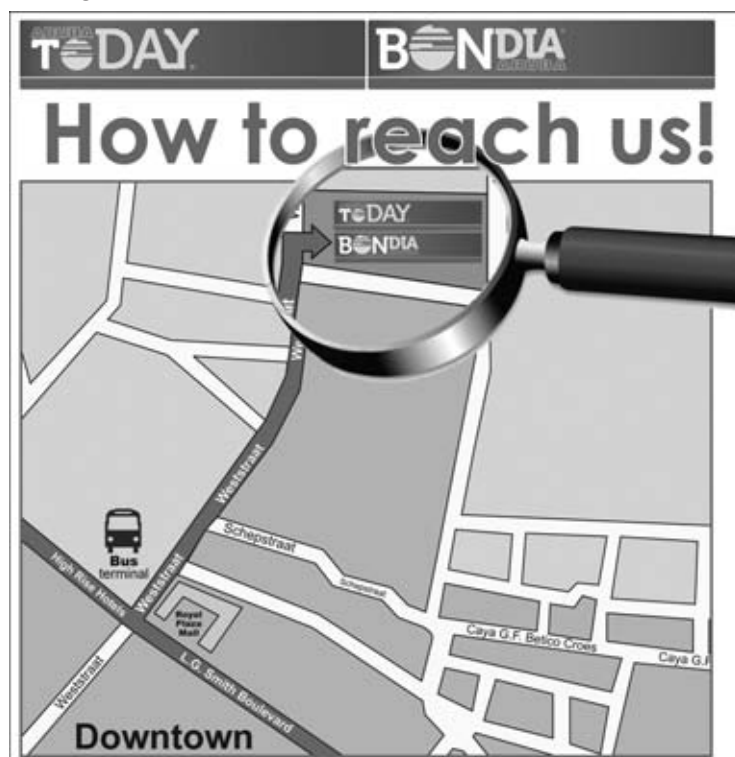
Corporate Vice President Kazuhiro Doi told reporters. "Both NASA and Nissan need the same kind of battery," he said.

Nissan and NASA are using what's called the "original material informatics platform," a computerized database, to test various combinations to see what works best among hundreds of thousands of materials, Doi said.

The goal is to avoid the use of expensive materials like rare metals, which are needed for lithium-ion batteries.

Nissan is also counting on its historical experience with the Leaf electric car, which

first hit the market in 2010 and has sold more than half a million units globally, although the battery technology is different, Doi and other company officials said. □



ARUBA
TODAY

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Power signs with Sabres as Michigan to NHL exodus begins

By STEPHEN WHYNO
AP Hockey Writer

Owen Power is trading in Michigan maize and blue for the blue and gold of the Buffalo Sabres, and he is far from the only Wolverine making the leap to the NHL.

The Michigan exodus is underway less than 24 hours after the loaded Wolverines were knocked out of the Frozen Four short of a national title.

Before Power inked his deal with Buffalo on Friday, teammates Kent Johnson and Nick Blankenburg signed with the Columbus Blue Jackets. Matty Beniers and Brendan Brisson might not be too far behind in the aftermath of Michigan's overtime loss to Denver in the NCAA Tournament semifinals.

Sabres general manager Kevyn Adams said Power is expected to join Buffalo in Florida on Saturday and is tentatively scheduled to make his debut Tuesday at Toronto.

The 6-foot-6, 214-pound defenseman was more than a point-a-game player for Michigan, had a hat trick at the world junior championship before it was called off and played almost 22 minutes a game for Canada at the Winter Olympics in Beijing. Power will get



Michigan players react after losing to Denver in overtime during an NCAA men's Frozen Four semifinal hockey game, Thursday, April 7, 2022, in Boston.

Associated Press

some valuable experience by suiting up with the Sabres, who will not make the playoffs for the 11th consecutive season.

"When you add it all up, it was a great development year for him," Adams said. "Regardless of how talented he is, he's still a young player and we want to keep helping him get better and better and set him up for success. Really am proud of how he handled himself during this season on and off the ice and just excited to get him in a Sa-

bres uniform."

Johnson signed a three-year, entry-level contract like Power while Blankenburg got a one-year deal. They are expected to join their new team Monday and could also get plugged into the Blue Jackets lineup right away. Blankenburg was a free agent, while Johnson was the fifth pick in the 2021 draft. The skilled 19-year-old forward had 17 goals and 47 assists in his final college season and had five points in four games at the

2022 Olympics representing Canada.

"Kent Johnson is a remarkable young man both on and off the ice," Blue Jackets general manager Jarmo Kekalainen said. "He is a highly-skilled and creative player who can bring you out of your seat whenever he's on the ice."

There are similarly high hopes for Beniers and Brisson, who starred for the U.S. at the Olympics on a team featuring more than a dozen college players. Beniers could soon join the

expansion Seattle Kraken after they took him second in the draft, while Brisson was a 2020 first-round pick by Vegas.

Goaltender Erik Portillo (Buffalo), defensemen Luke Hughes and Ethan Edwards (New Jersey) and Jacob Truscott (Vancouver), forwards Thomas Bordeleau (San Jose), John Beecher (Boston), Eric Ciccolini (New York Rangers), Mackie Samoskevich (Florida) and Dylan Duke (Tampa Bay) are the other Michigan players with rights already owned by NHL clubs. Adams said he also spoke with Portillo, who was in goal for the loss to Denver. It was not clear what Portillo's path forward might be, but the Sabres did not have much doubt Power would join them and play in the NHL quickly.

"This stretch of games until the end of the season is so critical for him because you feel the NHL game, you get a good understanding of what you need to do to prepare yourself to play, the speed of the game, physicality — all of it," Adams said.

"He'll take that into his off-season and just the way he's wired (he) is the type of kid who processes things very quickly and he'll learn quickly." □



Belinda Bencic returns the ball to Madison Keys at the Charleston Open tennis tournament in Charleston, S.C., Thursday, April 7, 2022.

Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — Belinda Bencic rallied to beat second-seeded Paula Badosa 2-6, 7-6 (2), 6-4 on Friday to advance to the semifinals of the Credit One Charleston Open. No. 4 Ons Jabeur also

reached the final four in the season's opening clay-court event, beating Anhelina Kalinina 6-3, 6-2. Badosa, of Spain, was up a set and 4-2 in the second when Bencic, of Switzerland, found her rhythm.

Bencic tops 2nd-seeded Badosa to reach Charleston semifinals

Bencic took a 5-4 lead and held on to force the tie-breaker. She took control there, winning five of the final six points to tie up the match.

The final set was tied at 4-all when Bencic, who won Olympic gold in singles at Tokyo last summer, took control for good. She hit a service winner to set up match point then celebrated when Badosa's final shot went into the net. It was Bencic's first win over the world's third-ranked player in four tries.

"I felt very uncomfortable the first set and half," Bencic said. "I was just trying to hang on to my service

games with the wind. I felt like I needed to get my game together and make it harder for her."

Bencic did that when it mattered most.

"I really had nothing to lose," said Bencic, ranked 21st in the world.

It's the second trip to the semifinals here Bencic, the 10th seed. The first came in her initial appearance at the season's opening clay-court tournament in 2014.

Bencic will play the winner of a match between Magda Linette and Ekaterina Alexandrova.

Jabeur, of Tunisia, had little trouble advancing into the semis for the second

straight year. She actually had two strong weeks in Charleston in 2021 with her semifinal run at this tournament, then a trip to the finals a week later at a second clay-court event at this facility where she was beaten by Australian Astra Sharma in three sets.

Jabeur appears just as comfortable and confident this time around. She hasn't lost a set in three matches here, winning all of them by 6-3, 6-2 scores. She's been on court a total of three hours, 17 minutes.

Jabeur will face the winner of a match between Americans CoCo Vandeweghe and Amanda Anisimova. □

Donaldson lifts Yankees to opening win over Red Sox in 11th

By **RONALD BLUM**
AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Josh Donaldson capped his Yankees debut with an RBI single in the 11th inning, lifting New York over the Boston Red Sox 6-5 Friday for its first walk-off win on opening day since Yogi Berra scored in 1957.

Trailing 3-0 before ace Gerrit Cole got a single out, the Yankees rallied against their longtime rival.

Xander Bogaerts put the Red Sox ahead 5-4 in the 10th with an RBI single against winner Michael King — Bogaerts' his third hit of the game. Pinch-hitter Gleyber Torres tied it in the bottom half with a sacrifice fly off Ryan Brasier.

Donaldson, acquired from Minnesota last month, grounded a single up the middle against rookie Kutter Crawford leading off the 11th. Isiah Kiner-Falefa, who started the inning as the automatic runner at second base, scored in his Yankees debut.

It was the Yankees' sixth overall walk-off win on opening day. The last time came when the defending World Series champions began the 1957 season by beating the Washington Senators 2-1 as Berra scored on a single by Andy Carey.

Before the Yankees and Red Sox met, New York star Aaron Judge let his deadline for a long-term con-



Yankees' Josh Donaldson, center, celebrates after hitting the walk-off single in the 11th inning of an opening day baseball game against the Boston Red Sox, Friday, April 8, 2022, in New York.

Associated Press

tract pass.

Judge, who said he will not negotiate during the season, went 2 for 5, including a two-out double in the ninth off Hansel Robles. Giancarlo Stanton, who had homered in the fourth, struck out for the fourth time, sending the game to extra innings.

Rafael Devers hit a two-run homer as Boston built a 3-0 lead in the first off Cole, who lasted just four innings. Anthony Rizzo had a two-run drive in the bottom half and Stanton tied it at 3 with a leadoff homer in the fourth. Both were off Nathan Eovaldi, who beat Cole in last year's AL wild-

card game.

DJ LeMahieu hit a tying home off Red Sox reliever Garrett Whitlock in the eighth.

Seats were filled with a sellout crowd of 46,097, COVID-19 protocols were dropped and opening-day festivities returned after two seasons altered by the pandemic.

Ukraine's flag was raised and its national anthem played before "The Star-Spangled Banner" during ceremonies that included a moment of silence for war victims.

Eovaldi allowed three runs and five hits in five innings, leaving with a 4-3 lead after

Alex Verdugo's go-ahead single in the sixth off Clay Holmes through a drawn-in infield.

Cole was booed 14 pitches in. He walked Kiké Hernández on four pitches leading off and allowed a two-run homer to Devers on a 98.6 mph pitch that landed in the second deck in right. Bogaerts followed with a single and scored on J.D. Martinez's double, prompting a mound trip by pitching coach Matt Blake.

Cole had looked forward to his first Yankees opener before a full crowd. He settled down to retire 11 of his last 14 batters.

Stanton has five opening-

day homers, including four with the Yankees. He struck out in his four other at-bats. Eovaldi didn't allow his second home run last year until June 4.

START ME UP

Trevor Story played his first big league game at second base after 733 at shortstop and went 0 for 5 at the plate in his Red Sox debut. ... Donaldson was 2 for 6 in his Yankees debut and Kiner-Falefa was 0 for 5, including a strikeout in a 10-pitch at-bat that ended the 10th. ... New New York City Mayor Eric Adams played catch with Yankees pitcher Luis Severino before the game.

HE'S BACK

New York's Aaron Hicks returned from wrist surgery and was 1 for 4 with three strikeouts in his first game since last April 27.

MEMORIES

Boston is wearing black patches on its right sleeves with a white No. 2 in memory of Jerry Remy, whose last name is in red. The former player and broadcaster died Oct. 30 at age 68.

SIGNALING

Yankees catcher Kyle Higashioka moved the new Pitch Com signaling device from a wrist to a shin-guard.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Yankees: Rizzo was hit on the right hand by a fastball from Eovaldi in the fifth inning that tailed in. He stayed in the game. □

LeBron James to miss Lakers' final 2 games with ankle injury

By **GREG BEACHAM**
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — LeBron James will miss the final two games of the Los Angeles Lakers' season with a sprained left ankle, almost certainly preventing him from winning his second NBA scoring title.

The Lakers made the announcement Friday before they hosted the Oklahoma City Thunder. Los Angeles' disappointing season ends Sunday at Denver.

The 37-year-old James averaged 30.3 points this

season while playing in only 56 games, two shy of the minimum to qualify for the scoring title with his full points-per-game average. The second-leading scorer in NBA history has played in only one game since spraining his ankle March 27, scoring 38 points in a crushing home loss to New Orleans on April 1.

James is slightly behind Philadelphia's Joel Embiid, who is averaging 30.4 points per game in one of the closest scoring title races in NBA history. Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo is third at 29.9 points per game.

James is a four-time league MVP with four championship rings, but he won his only scoring title back in 2008 with Cleveland.

The 18-time All-Star was attempting to become the oldest scoring champion in NBA history by surpassing Michael Jordan, who was 35 when he won his final title.

James passed Karl Malone for second place on the NBA's career scoring list



Los Angeles Lakers' Carmelo Anthony, left, sits on the bench with Anthony Davis and LeBron James, right, during the second half of the team's NBA basketball game against the Golden State Warriors in San Francisco, Thursday, April 7, 2022.

Associated Press

on March 19. With 37,062 points, he trails only Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and his 38,387 points for the top

spot in league history. James also averaged 8.2 rebounds and 6.2 assists in his 19th season. □

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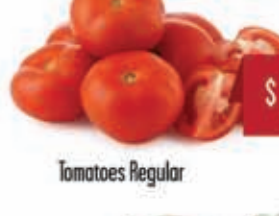


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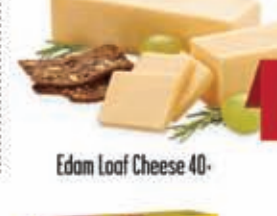


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